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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,276	11/14/2003	John M. Morgenstern	SAI.P011 US	2041

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EXAMINER

DINH, TIEN QUANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/714,276

Applicant(s)

MORGENSTERN ET AL.

Examiner

Tien Dinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 29-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 29-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/1/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of group I in the reply filed on 11/3/04 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-12, 29-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Darden.

Darden teaches design steps taken to configure the aircraft for low sonic boom supersonic flight conditions by an equivalent area distribution curve of the aircraft to approximate an ideal equivalent area distribution goal. The ideal equivalent area distribution goal curve is what one skilled in the art would want so that would motivate one skilled in the art to achieve that.

Although Darden doesn't seem to specifically mention about "relaxing a design constraint", one skilled in the art would have "relaxed the design constraint" as desired to design an optimally performing aircraft. Please note that Darden teaches segmenting the wing into panels to analyze them and thus smoothing the configuration of each panel, determining the design variables along the Mach angle lines, determine an angle incident angle and shape of the remain portions for maximum lift-to-drag ratio. Darden also discloses using F-function to determine the minimized

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sonic boom disturbance and scaling the equivalent area distribution goal curve to maintain the desired aircraft weight. Darden also inherently teaches redistributing the areas of lift subject to center of pressure constraints to achieve the desired balance characteristics. Furthermore, Darden teaches that redistributing the lift of the wing by having the far-field expansion ahead of the areas of far-field compression and scaling an equivalent area distribution goal curve to maintain the desired aircraft weight that counter excursions below the equivalent area distribution goal curve.

Re claims 5 and 33, to re-determine the incidence angle and remaining portion is an inherent step that one skilled in the art would have taken to design an optimal operating aircraft.

Re claims 6, 7, and 35 to optimize the configuration is a step that one skilled in the art would have taken to improve the design of the aircraft.

Re claims 10 and 38 to analyze the sonic boom below and to the side of the aircraft and to perturb the aircraft design variables are steps that one skilled in the art would have used in designing the whole aircraft.

Re claim 11, adjusting and reshaping are steps that one skilled in the art would have taken to improve the design of the aircraft.

Re claim 39, please note that allow a use to define a design variable is an inherent step one skilled in the art would have taken to optimize the design of the aircraft.

Conclusion

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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Aftosmis et al, Letcher, Hatanaka, Cheng, Hartmann, Ruffin, and Henne et al teach aircraft designs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tien Dinh whose telephone number is 703-308-2798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (703)305-7421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TD

Tien Dinh